

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
 :
 Tadashi SAO et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3679
 :
 Serial No.: 10/580,909 : **Confirmation No.: 6843**
 :
 Filed: May 30, 2006 :
 :
 For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND :
 AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED :
 THEREWITH :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. *A copy of the non-U.S. patent is attached.*

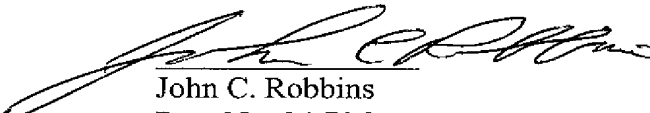
No fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

KR1998-071723 is a Korean language document. US 5,927,093 is an English language counterpart of KR1998-071723.

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Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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